(c) A comprehensive package of services relating to mother and child health, and contraception are being provided under the RCH Programme. Efforts are being made to make Family Welfare Programme a people's programme through increased involvement of NGOs, Self Help Groups and members of Panchayati Raj Institutions. Intersectoral convergence for improving delivery of family welfare services at field levels is also being persued. An Empowered Action Group has been constituted to address the unmet needs of the demographically weaker states. A Jannani Suraksha Yojana is being launched in the country to address the issues of institutional delivery and promotion of sterilization. A National Commitment Campaign has been launched for generating greater political commitment for the Family Welfare Programme.

Two children norm

2056. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representations on the Supreme Court's judgement upholding the two children norm as a pre-requisite condition for heading an elected institution like the panchayat;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto;

(c) whether Government have issued any guidelines or directions to all the State Governments for implementation of the Supreme Court judgement;

t (d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Some Writ Petition (Civil) and appeal challenging the provisions of section 175(1)(q) and 177(1) of the Haryana Panchayati Raj Act 1994 (Act No. 11 of 1994) debarring persons who have more than two children from becoming or continuing as Sarpanch or a Panch of a Gram Panchayat or member of Panchayat Samiti or Zila Parishad, were dismissed by Hon'ble Supreme Court on 30th July, 03.

(c) to (e) No Sir. The Government is in the process of building greater consensus in favour of the Constitution (79th Amendment) Bill which has been pending before the Parliament since 1992. The Bill aims a disqualification of a person contesting or for holding office as a member of either House of Parliament or State Legislature, if she/he has more than two children.

Malaria cases in Himachal Pradesh

2057. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of malaria in Himachal Pradesh from 1998 to date, district-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether there is an increase in such cases every year. If so, the details thereof during 2002-2003 and 2003-2004; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard indicating the Central aid given for fighting the menace?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) The number of malaria cases State of Himachal Pradesh from 1998 to date, year-wise and district wise is given in the enclosed Statement, (See below)

(b) There is a decline in the malaria cases each year since 1998.176 Cases in 2002 and 121 Cases during 2003 (upto October) have be reported by the State.

(c) For control of malaria, National Vector Borne Diseases Control Programme (NVBDCP) has been in operation in the country as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. The Central Government provides assistance to the States in the form of drugs, insecticides and technical support. Assistance is also given for capacity building including training and health educational activities. The State Government implements the programmme through